Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 INT-05 XMB-02 /081 W
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O 101128Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 306
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 3 KINSHASA 6069

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, ECON, EFIN, CG

SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR BRUSSELS MEETING ON ZAIRE

REF: A) KINSHASA 5328, B) KINSHASA 5724, C) KINSHASA 6040 D) STATE 145498 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ESTIMATE FOR FY-1978 REMAINS AS REPORTED KINSHASA 5328. OUR ESTIMATE OF NET FINANCIAL GAP FOR LAST HALF OF 1978 IS \$142 MILLION. EMBASSY ESTIMATE AS TO FINANCIAL GAP FOR FIRST HALF OF 1979 IS \$30 MILLION. ZAIRIAN DELEGATION IN BRUSSELS IS STILL REFINING DETAILS OF MOBUTU PLAN. THE FINANCIAL SECTOR OF PLAN IS TO BE COMPLETED FOLLOWING AGREEMENT WITH IMF FOR NEW STANDBY. NO SPECIFIC FIGURES AVAILABLE AS TO SUMS REQUIRED TO RESTORE GECAMINES OPERATIONS TO FULL CAPACITY. HOWEVER, THERE WAS RELATIVELY LITTLE DAMAGE TO MINING FACILITIES CAUSED BY SHABA II. MMST OF GECAMINES' FACILITIES ARE BACK IN PRODUCTION. BASIC PROBLEMS IN COMING MONTHS WILL BE MAINCONFIDENTIAL.

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TENANCE, EMERGENCY REPAIRS, SPARE PARTS, ACTIVITIES SUPER-VISED PRIMARILY BY EXPATRIATES. END SUMMARY

2. KINSHASA 5328 CONTAINS OUR BEST ANALYSIS OF ZAIRE'S LIKELY BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION AS OF THE END OF CALENDAR 1978. BRIEFLY, HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES THE SECOND SEMESTER COMPONENT OF THAT CABLE:

1 JULY 1978-31 DEC. 1978

RECEIPTS: \$425 MILLION
(MINERALS) (\$212) MILLION
(AGRICULTURE) (\$136) MILLION
EXPENDITURES: \$650 MILLION
(GOODS AND SERVICES) (\$600) MILLION

(DEBT) \$ 45) MILLION (TRANSFERS) (\$ 5) MILLION GROSS GAP \$225 MILLION FINANCING \$ 83 MILLION NET FINANCIAL GAP \$142 MILLION

THIS ASSUMES 80,000 METRIC TONS OF COPPER PRODUCTION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1978, 65,000 TONS FROM GECAMINES AND THEE EQUIVALENT OF 15,000 TONS OF COPPER FROM SODIMIZA CONCENTRATES, AND AN AVERAGE PRICE FOR THE COPPER AND CONCENTRATES OF 62 CENTS PER POUND, COBALT PRODUCTION FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR IS ESTIMATED AT 150 TONS AT THE CURRENT PRICE OF \$8.50 PER POUND, AND ZINC AT 8,000 TONS AT 23 CENTS PER POUND. RECEIPTS FROM ALL OTHER MINERAL PRODUCTION AND ALL AGRI-CULTURAL PRODUCTION ARE ASSUMED TO BE DIVIDED EVENLY BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND SEMESTER. GOODS AND SERVICES EXPENDI-TURES ARE ALSO ASSUMED TO BE DIVIDED ROUGLY EVENLY. AND OUTSTANDING DEBT HAS BEEN DECREASED BY WHAT WE KNOW TO HAVE ALREADY BEEN PAID IN THE U.S. CASE AND AN ESTIMATE OF THE AMOUNT PAID TO OTHER CREDITORS (TAKING THE U.S. CASE AS TYPICAL). BY FAR THE BULK, HOWEVER, REMAINS TO BE PAID IN CONFIDENTIAL.

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THE SECOND SEMESTER. AS WE NOTED IN THE ORIGNAL TEXT, WE ARE ALSO ASSUMING MINIMAL PAYMENTS ON OTHER THAN PARIS CLUB DEBT, AND USE OF THE \$83 MILLION IN THE BIS BLOCKED ACCOUNT TO FINANCE SOME IMPORTS/DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS.

3. THE FOLLOWING VERY GENERAL ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST HALF OF 1979 IS BASED ON LIMITED DATA AVAILABLE AND THE FOLLOWING ASSUMPTIONS:

A. OVERALL GECAMINES PRODUCTION AT ABOUT 80 PER CENT OF 1977 LEVELS/CAPACITY, ALL OTHER MINING CONSISTENT WITH CURRENT TRENDS, E.G. DECREASING TIN AND CASSITERITE PRODUCTION, INCREASED RETURNS FROM PETROLEUM.

B. OFFICIAL DEBT RESCHEDULING IN 1978 AND 1979 ON THE SAME TERMS AS 1977 PRIVATE DEBT RESCHEDULING, OR ITS EQUIVALENT REQUIRING PAYMENT OF ABOUT FIVE PER CENT OF THE AMOUNT CURRENTLY OUTSTANDING, AND ESSENTIALLY NO PAYMENTS ON OTHER COMMERCIAL DEBT OR REDUCTION OF CURRENT ARREARAGES.

C. IMPORTS MAINTAINED AT THE SAME REAL LEVEL AS 1978, ALLOW-ING FOR EIGHT PER CENT ANNUAL PRICE INFLATION, AND DIVIDED

EQUALLY BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR.

1 JAN 1979-30 JUNE 1979

RECEIPTS \$660 MILLION

OF WHICH

(MINERALS EXPORTS) \$470 MILLION (AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS) \$141 MILLION

EXPENDITURES \$690 MILLION

OF WHICH

(GOODS AND SERVICES) \$625 MILLION
(DEBT SERVICE) \$60 MILLION
(TRANSFERS - NET) \$5 MILLION
GROSS FINANCIAL GAP \$30 MILLION

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 307
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

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BRSUSSELS ALSO FOR EEC

FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1979 (MILLIONS US\$)

COPPER 200,000 MT AT 65 CENTS AV/LB 286.6

COBALT 4,000 MT AT \$8.50/LB 75.0

PETROLEUM PER CONCESSION AGREEMENT 28.0

 ZINC
 20,000 MT AT 28 CENTS/LB
 12.3

 GOLD
 20,000 OZ TROY AT \$180/OZ
 3.6

 DIAMONDS
 (GEM AND INDUSTRIAL) - 40.0

TIN 1,250 MT AT \$5.00/LB 13.8

OTHER 10.0

 COFFEE
 30,000 MT AT \$1.50/LB
 99.2

 PALM OILS
 10,000 MT AT 29 CENTS/LB
 6.4

 TIMBER
 50,000 CU. M. AT \$265/CU. M.
 13.3

 COCOA
 1,000 MT AT \$1.30/LB
 2.9

 TEA
 2,000 MT AT 60 CENTS/LB
 2.6

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RUBBER 15,000 MT AT 50 CENTS/LB 16.5

- 5. IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT DEBT SERVICES PAYMENTS UNDER THE 1975-76 PARIS CLUB AGREEMENT INCREASE SHARPLY FROM THE FIRST HALF OF 1979 AS PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS BECOME DUE ON A SEMI-ANNUAL BASIS. WE HAVE ALSO ASSUMED THAT THOSE PAYMENTS DUE IN 1978 UNDER THE PREVIOUS PARIS CLUB AGREEMENTS WILL IN FACT BE MET. IF NOT, THE CARRIED-OVER ARREARAGES COULD DOUBLE THE PROPOSED FIRST SEMESTER GAP. THE RECEIPTS FIGURES HAVE NOT BEEN LAGGED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT DELAYS IN RECEIPT OF MINERALS EARNINGS, AND THUS MAY WELL BE SOMEWHAT OVERSTATED. FINALLY, THE IMPORT LEVEL ASSUMED ALLOWS FOR ESSENTIALLY NO UNUSUAL IMPORTS TO RESTART GECAMINES PRODUCTION OR TO RECREATE LOST SUPPLY STOCKS AND IMPLIES CONTINUED DECLINE IN REAL GNP.
- 6. EMBASSY ESTIMATE OF ZAIRE'S SHORT-TERM IMPORT AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE REQUIREMENTS IN KEY AREAS OF FOOD, PETROLEUM, MEDICINE AND SPARE PARTS REPORTED REF C, AND EMBASSY VIEWS CONCERNING PL-480 REMAIN AS STATED REF B.
- 7. BELGIAN ECONOMIC COUNSELOR TOLD US THAT GOZ TEAM WHICH ARRIVED BRUSSELS APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK AGO IS STILL NEGOTIATING CONCERNING MOBUTU PLAN. BELGIAN EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT BASIC MOBUTU PLAN DOCUMENT WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED AT CONFERENCE WILL BE BELGIUM'S TRUNCATED VERSION. FINANCIAL CHAPTER IS TO BE COMPLETED FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF STANDBY AGREEMENT WITH IMF.
- 8. JUNE 9 CONSULATE LUBUMBASHI QUERIED GECAMINES OFFICIALS AS TO LATEST INFOR CONCERNING STATUS OF GECAMINES OPERATIONS AND FOR ANY INFO AVAILABLE AS TO SUMS NECESSARY TO GET FACILITIES BACK TO PRE-SHABA II PRODUCTION LEVELS. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT GECAMINES' ESTIMATE AS TO LIKELY PRODUCTION FOR SECOND CONFIDENTIAL

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HALF OF 1978 IS OVERLY OPTIMISTIC. WE PREFER TO STICK WITH OUR MORE CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE EXPRESSED ABOVE.

9. FOLLOWING IS MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM CONSULATE LUBUMBASHI:

BEGIN QUOTE

10. CONSUL MET GECAMINES (GCM) OFFICIALS AT 1800 ON JUNE 9
TO DISCUSS GCM REQUIREMENTS. OFFICIALS WERE FORTHCOMING BUT
LACKED PRECISE INFORMATION. THEY SAID THEY COULD HAVE
PROVIDED MORE DETAILS IF ADDITIONAL TIME AVAILABLE. I HAVE THE
IMPRESSION THAT THEY ARE STILL IN PROCESS OF SURVEYING THE
DAMAGE AND TRYING TO SEE WHAT IS WORKING. TRANSPORTATION AND
POLITICAL PRESSURE TO RESTART ALL OPERATIONS AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE HAVE MEANT THAT LIMITED STAFF HAS NOT HAD TIME TO
MAKE THOROUGH EVALUATION OF NEEDS.

11. UPON ORDERS OF PRESIDENT, GCM HAD RESUMED ALL KOLWEZI OPERATIONS EXCEPT AT METALKAT ZINC PLANT BY JUNE 2. THERE WAS LITTLE DAMAGE TO GCM INSTALLATIONS OR HEAVY EQUIPMENT. MAIN LOSS WAS IN TRUCKS AND VEHICLES. GIVEN CONSTRAINT OF SHORTAGE OF TRUCKS, SOME FACILITIES WERE ABLE TO RETURN TO PRE-ATTACK LEVELS WITHOUT MUCH DIFFICULTY, NOTABLY OPEN PIT MINES AND KOLWEZI CONCENTRATOR. INITIAL PRODUCTION AT OTHER INSTALLATIONS WAS 60 PER CENT AT KAMOTO UNDERGROUND, 60-70 PER CENT AT KAMOTO CONCENTRATOR AND 80 PER CENT AT LUILU REFINERY, BUT PRODUCTION DECLINES CAN BE EXPECTED AT ALL THESE FACILITIES IN COMING MONTHS. BASIC PROBLEMS WILL BE MAINTENANCE, EMERGENCY REPAIRS, AND SPARE PARTS, ACTIVITIES SUPERVISED PRIMARILY BY EXPATRIATES. ALSO ZAIRIAN ENGINEERS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP UP HARD PACE OF HOLDING EXTRA JOBS FOR LONG PERIOD IN FUTURE.

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O 101210Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 308
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR EEC

12. GECAMINES LATEST ESTIMATES FOR PRODUCTION FOR 1978 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

COPPER COBALT

JANUARY/APRIL 143,000 MT 4,000 MT

MAY 22,000 MT 600 MT JUNE 27,500 MT 700 MT

JULY/DECEMBER 185,000 MT 2,500 MT

TOTAL 377,500 MT 7,800 MT

THESE FIGURES ASSUME CONTINUED SECURITY AT ALL INSTALLATIONS, THE WILLINGNESS OF PEOPLE TO RETURNTO WORK AT KOLWEZI, AND SOME INTERNATIONAL CREDIT. THE FIGURES ARE NOT BROKEN DOWN TO SEPARATE KOLWEZI PRODUCTION FROM THE OTHER INSTALLATIONS BECAUSE ALL MINING OPERATIONS ARE INTEGRATED, I.E. MINERALS FROM ONE AREA ARE PROCESSED AT PLANTS IN OTHER COMMUNITIES.

13. GECAMINES REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FUTURE FALL INTO THREE CATECONFIDENTIAL

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GORIES. FIRST, AND SIMPLEST IN SOME WAYS, ARE THE DIRECT LOSSES OF EQUIPMENT BECAUSE OF THE WAR. GREATEST LOSS WAS IN VEHICLES. OF ABOUT 900 VEHICLES UNDER CONTROL OF KOLWEZI WORKSHOPS, ONLY 250 HAVE BEEN RECOVERED IN WORKING ORDER. OFFICIALS EXPECT A FEW OTHERS WILL EVENTUALLY TURN UP. GREAT LOSS WAS PICKUPS (PERHAPS 20-50). OTHER VEHICLE LOSSES INCLUDED GREASING TRUCKS AND SMALL CARS.

14. HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES DURING WAR WERE NOT SIGNIFICANT. ALL EXCAVATORS, GRADERS, AND BIG TRUCKS ARE INTACT. TWO OF BIG SHOVELS IN OPEN PIT AND FIVE DRILLING MACHINES IN UNDERGROUND WERE INUNDATED BY MINOR FLOODING. ALL BUT ONE DRILLING MACHINE HAVE BEEN REMOVED AND ARE THOUGHT REPARABLE. BIGGEST PROBLEM IS THAT MUCH OF THE HEAVY EQUIPMENT WAS OLD AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN REPLACED IN RECENT YEARS BUT HAD BEEN KEPT IN SERVICE BECAUSE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE SHORT FALLS. NONE OF THE 50-ODD 100 TON DECTRA HAUL TRUCKS WERE DAMAGED BUT 12 WERE OLD AND SCHEDULED FOR REPLACEMENT UNDER ILL-FETED EX-IM LOAN. OTHER EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO REPLACE OVER-AGED OR NON-WORKING MACHINES INCLUDED ONE TRANSWEIGH SCALE, CONVEYOR BELTS AND SCREENING FOR THE CRUSHING PLANT. IN ADDITION, INADEQUATE FOREIGN EXCHANGE IN RECENT YEARS HAS FORCED GCM TO LOWER ITS STOCKS OF SPARE PARTS TO A NEARLY UNACCEPTABLE LEVEL, GIVEN THE DISTANCE AND TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT LOSSES EXCEPT TRUCKS WERE NOT GREAT. RESTOR-

ATION TO FULL PRODUCTIVITY WILL PROBABLY BE DELAYED MORE BECAUSE OF OVER-AGED EQUIPMENT AND SPARE PARTS SHORTAGES, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE DECLINING LEVELS OF MAINTENANCE, THAN BECAUSE OF EQUIPMENT LOSSES DUE DIRECTLY TO THE WAR.

15. SECOND REQUIREMENT FOR THE FUTURE WILL BE RESTORATION OF TOWN OF KOLWEZI EVEN WITH SECURITY FEW PEOPLE WILL BE WILLING TO LIVE IN TOWN WHERE GRISLY REMINDERS OF MAY EVENTS ARE EVERYWHERE EVIDENT. FUNDS WILL BE NEEDED TO CLEAN UP AND RESTORE CONFIDENTIAL.

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HOMES, BUSINESSES, AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS. ALTHOUGH EXTENT OF DAMAGE TO TOWN HAS NOT BEN ESTIMATED, RESTORATION COULD COST \$40-50 MILLION.

16. THIRD REQUIREMENT CONCERNS PERSONNEL. PREVIOUS KOLWEZI RESIDENTS ALL SUFFERED GREAT LOSSES, PERHAPS \$10,000 PER FAMILY (\$20,000 IF THEY OWNED A CAR). TO ENTICE FORMER WORKERS, GCM WILL HAVE TO OFFER SOME SYSTEM OF REIMBURSEMENT FOR LOSSES. ALL WORKERS AT KOLWEZI ARE LIKELY TO SEEK PREMIUM PAY FOR RISK OF WORKING IN DANGEROUS AREA. EVEN IF FUNDS AVAILABLE TO PAY PERSONNEL COSTS, SERIOUS QUESTION CAN BE RAISED WWHETHER GCM CAN FIND THE SKILLED MANPOWER IN THE COMING MONTHS WILLING TO TAKE THE RISKS.

17. EVEN BEFORE MAY EVENTS, GCM WAS STRAPPED FOR FUNDS. PREVIOUS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS WERE DISCUSED IN LUBUMBASHI A-08. GCM NEEDED ONE BILLION BELGIAN FRANCS (ABOUT \$30 MILLION) PER MONTH IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO COVER COSTS. LOSSES MAKE NEEDS GREATER BUT SOURCES OF REVENUE HAVE BECOME MUCH LESS.

18. REGRET THAT SPECIFIC SUMS NEEDED TO REACH PRE-INVASION PRODUCTION LEVELS ARE NOT AVAILABLE, BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE ANYONE YET HAS INFORMATION. ESTIMATES FOR REPLACEMENTS OF LOST AND AGED EQUIPMENT PLUS SPARE PARTS MIGHT BE ESTIMATED IN THE NEAR FUTURE WITHOUT GREAT DIFFICULTY, BUT THE OTHER, PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT, INTANGIBLE COSTS--THOSE OF RESTORING THE CITY TO A LIVEABLE COMMUNITY AND PROVIDING THE ENTICEMENT TO RELUCTANT TECHNICIANS--WILL BE MUCH HARDER TO CALCULATE. END QUOTE. CUTLER

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To: STATE BRUSSELS

Type: TE

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